

# LINGUIST 168 Introduction to Linguistic Typology

LECTURE 14: MORPHOLOGICAL TYPOLOGY, CONT.

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## For Monday, 5/17

1. Reading: Velupillai 2012, Ch.9 (until 9.1.3.4)
2. Discussion post
3. Homework #6

## Some organizational notes

- Grading backlog – will catch up with grades tonight-tomorrow!
- Instead of bonus assignment, chance to revise already submitted assignments.
- All revisions on assignments are due by 6/2.
- One more regular assignment due on Monday, 5/24.
- Final assignment (for 4 units) will be posted by Monday, 5/24.
  - › due 6/7 for graduating students; 6/11 for non-graduating students

## Plan for remainder of quarter

- Week 7 (5/17-5/19): clause participants, case and argument alignment
  - › Prof. Vera Griбанова will sit in on 5/19
- Week 8 (5/24-5/26): word order typology
- Week 9 (6/2): typology and language change

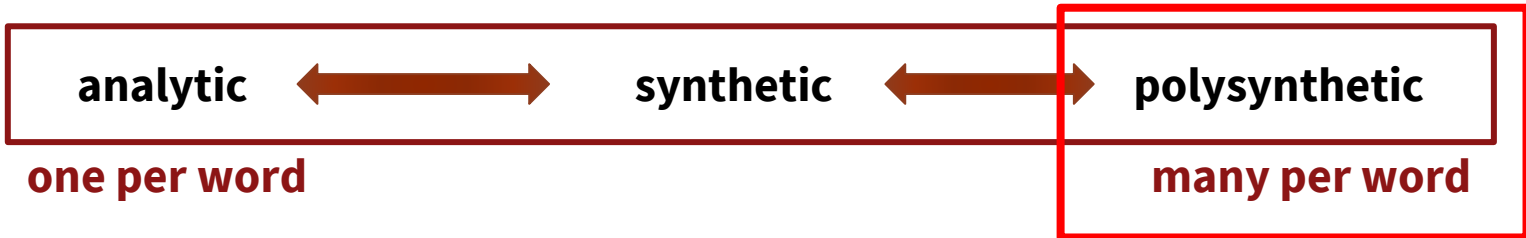
# Dimensions of morphological typology

Free versus bound morphemes:

- Does a language tend to use free or bound morphemes?



- How many morphemes tend to appear together in a word?



# Polysynthetic: synthetic with a twist

## West Circassian

me		for you	to them	s/he			
sə-	qə-	p-f-	a-r-	jə-	ʁe-	ʔeʁ <sup>w</sup> ə	-ʁ
1SG.AB	DIR-	2SG.BEN	3PL.DA	3SG.ERG-	CAUS-	see	-PAST
S-		-	T-				

‘S/he showed me to them for your sake.’

### Trademark properties:

- single word can be used as full sentence  
= pronouns can be freely dropped
- marking of >1 argument on the verb
- free word order

ABS = absolutive;  
BEN = benefactive;  
CAUS = causative;  
DAT = dative;  
DIR = directional;  
ERG = ergative;  
PL = plural;  
SG = singular.

# Polysynthetic & highly synthetic

## West Circassian

*wəqəzerešhapə rəzβewəḵ<sup>w</sup>əreječ'əž'əš<sup>w</sup>əβaβer*

wə-	qə-	zere-	šha-	pə-	rə-	z-	βe-
2SG.ABS-	DIR-	FACT-	head-	LOC-	TRANS-	1SG.ERG-	CAUS-
wəḵ <sup>w</sup> ereje	-č'ə	-ž'ə	-š <sup>w</sup> ə	-βa	-βe	-r	
fall		-go.out	-RE	-POT	-PST	-PST	-ABS

'that I was able to make you turn a somersault'

## Trademark property of polysynthesis: head marking

- a language can be highly synthetic, but not polysynthetic

### E.g. Hungarian is not polysynthetic

leg- meg- veszteget -het -etlen -ebb -ek -nek  
SUP- PRF- bribe -POSS -PRIV -CMP -PL -DAT  
'to those who are least bribable'

- polysynthetic languages are prevalently **head marking**



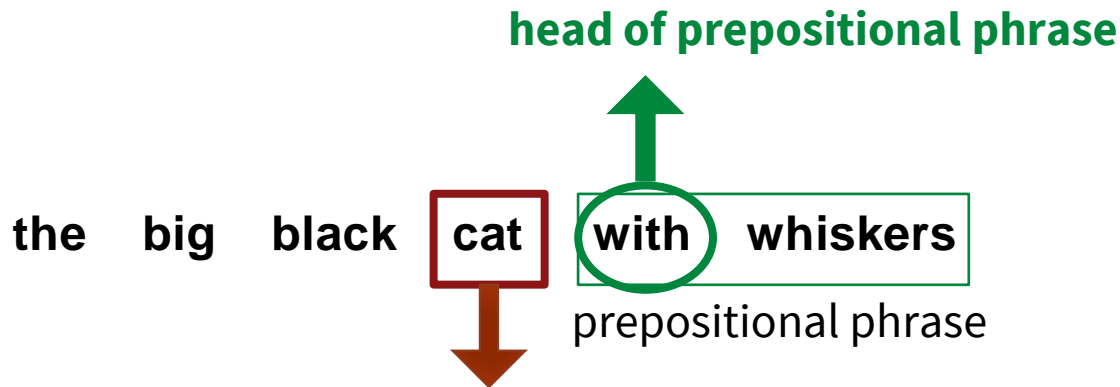
## Digression from discussion of morphological types

- head and dependent marking
- government and agreement

# Head and dependent

- A phrase usually consists of a head and dependent(s)
- **Head:**
  - › (intuitively) is the core of the phrase
  - › is obligatory (any phrase will have a head)
  - › determines the distribution of the phrase in the larger utterance
- **Dependent:**
  - › (intuitively) supplies additional information about the head
  - › not necessarily present in all phrases
  - › generally, does not influence the distribution of the phrase in the larger utterance

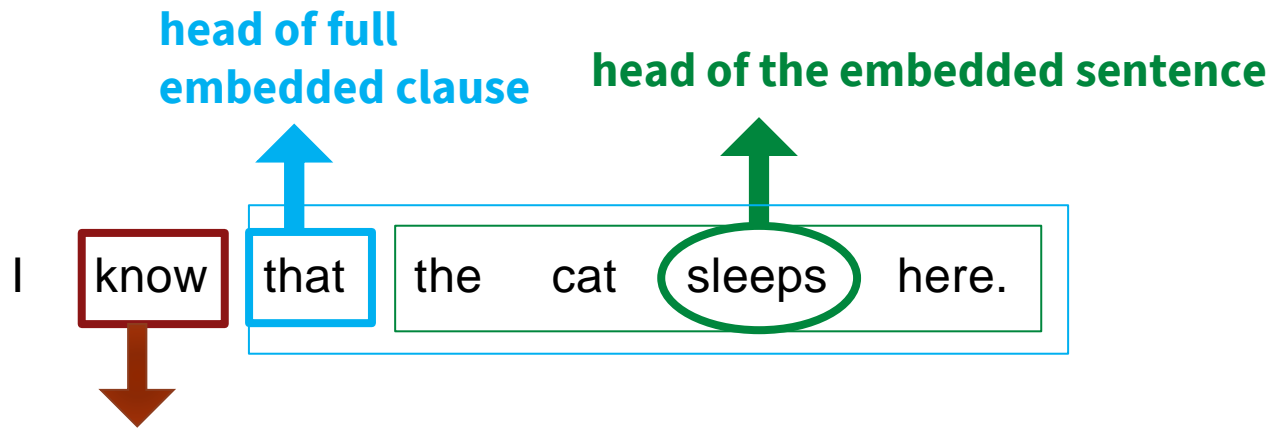
# Heads and dependents



## head of noun phrase

the “core” of the phrase  
determines the distribution

# Heads and dependents



**head of the whole sentence**

the “core” of the phrase

determines the distribution

## Linguists disagree

- theoretical notions of *head/dependent* do not always correspond to intuitive notions
- head in **typology** ≠ head in **Generative / Minimalist syntax**

**DETERMINER**

**the**

**cat**

**NOUN**

**POSSESSOR**

**John's**

**cat**

# Head versus dependent marking

- parameter about the expression of **the relationship between head and dependent**

	head		relationship	marking?
Sam's	book		possessor ~ possessee	dependent
I	sleep		subject ~ verb	head & dependent
She	sleeps		subject ~ verb	head & dependent
You	see	me / *I	object ~ verb	dependent
	for	me / *I	preposition ~ noun	dependent

## Head and dependent marking

- most languages use a mix of head and dependent marking

***E.g. English:***

*Sam's book*      *dependent marking*

*I see you*      *verb ~ subject: head & dependent marking*  
*verb ~ object: dependent marking*

# Agreement

- **Agreement:** some grammatical property of an element is copied onto another element

## Verbal agreement

She dance-**s**  
3 person singular

I dance-**∅**  
1 person singular

poll

## Adjectival agreement (Russian)

tʃorn-aja      koʃk a  
black-F.SG.NOM      cat.F-NOM  
feminine, singular, nominative

tʃorn-ij      kot-∅  
black-M.SG.NOM      cat.M-NOM  
masculine, singular, nominative



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# Agreement can be head- or dependent-marking

- verbal agreement:
  - › verb = head
  - › subject / object = dependent
  - › information is copied from dependent to head
  - › head-marking
- adjectival agreement:
  - › noun = head
  - › adjective = dependent
  - › information is copied from head to dependent
  - › dependent-marking
  - › also called **concord**

## Government

- The relation between the head and the dependent is expressed **only** on the dependent.
- The dependent is marked with information that is **not reflected** on the head  
(in contrast with agreement)
- Most common example: **case**.

You

see

for

me / \*I  
me / \*I

**accusative case**

**nominative case**

# Agreement versus government

## Agreement

- can be head-marking or dependent-marking
- involves copying information from one element onto another
- Example:  
person-number marking on verbs
- Agreement and government can cooccur in same construction
- E.g. in English: nominative case on subject + agreement on verb

## Government

- only dependent-marking
- is expressed only on the dependent; there is no copying involved
- Example:  
case on nouns and pronouns

# Activity

For each of these examples, I've **boldfaced** the morphemes that are expressing the relation between head and dependent:

1. Identify whether this is a case of head, dependent-marking, or both.
2. Identify whether this is a case of agreement, government, or both.

<b>bzəlfəwe-m</b>	<b>jə-tɕ'aʒe</b>
woman- <b>POSS</b>	<b>3SG</b> -boy
'the woman's son'	

le maile	<b>a</b> le tama
the dog	<b>of</b> the boy
'the boy's dog'	

a mata- <b>i</b>	Jone
the eye- <b>POSS</b>	John
'John's eye'	

(this slide intentionally left blank)

bzəlfəɐe-m	jə-tɕ'aʒe
woman-POSS	3SG-boy
'the woman's son'	

### West Circassian

head & dependent marking  
government & agreement

le maile	a le tama
the dog	of the boy
'the boy's dog'	

### Samoaan

dependent marking  
government

a mata-i	Jone
the eye-POSS	John
'John's eye'	

### Fijian

head marking  
agreement

# Head- versus dependent-marking languages

Value	Representation
● Consistently head-marking	47
● Consistently dependent-marking	46
● Consistently double-marking	16
○ Consistently zero-marking	6
○ Inconsistent marking or other type	121
<b>Total:</b> 236	

**polysynthetic languages**

**majority of sample**

<https://wals.info/chapter/25>



## Polysynthetic languages are strongly head marking

se	we	wə-	s-	teɐ <sup>w</sup>	-ɛ
				ə	
I	you	2SG	1SG	see	-PAST
		-	-		

### How are these relations expressed?

- verb ~ subject                      person-number prefix on verb
  - verb ~ object                        person-number prefix on verb
- \*no case on subject or object

**all (or most) relations expressed with head-marking**

## Properties typical of polysynthetic languages

- verbal arguments are optional

wə-	s-	ʔeɸ <sup>w</sup> ə	-ɸ
2SG-	1SG	see	-PAST
	-		

- word order is free 'I saw you.'

we	se	wə-	s-	ʔeɸ <sup>w</sup> ə	-ɸ
you	I	2SG-	1SG	see	-PAST
			-		

'I saw you.'

## Properties typical of polysynthetic languages

- noun incorporation: verb-noun compounds
- usually, verb + object

### Mapudungan (isolate)

**Entu**     **-soyüm**   **-yaw**            **-le**            **-ke**        **-i.**

**remove**   **-shrimp**   **-PERAMB**    **-PROG**    **-HAB**    **-IND**

‘He is always going around gathering (lit. removing)  
shrimp.’

HAB = habitual; IND = indicative; PERAMB = perambulative (“here and there”);  
PROG = progressive

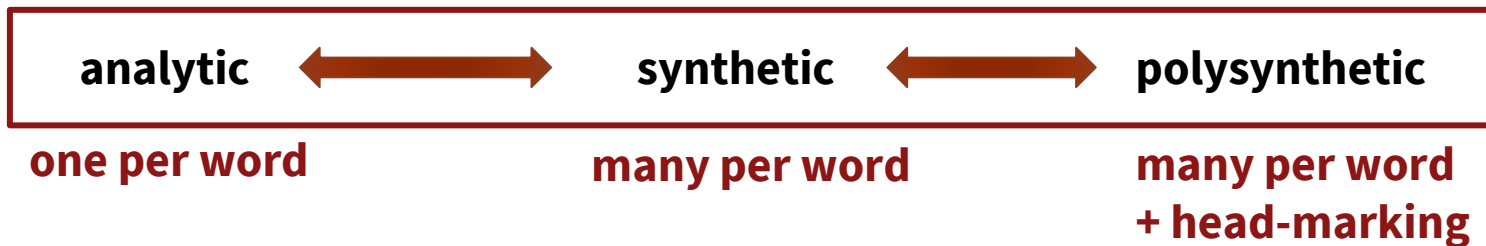
Zúñiga, Fernando (2017) Mapudungan. In The Oxford Handbook of Polysynthesis. OUP.

## Free versus bound morphemes: summary

- Does a language tend to use free or bound morphemes?



- How many morphemes tend to appear together in a word?



# Dimensions of morphological typology

How much information can be included in a morpheme?



Separative = **agglutinating**

Cumulative = **fusional**  
= portmanteau

# Separative versus cumulative morphology

Parameter of **exponence**:

How much information can be packaged into (= expounded by) one morpheme.

## separative

**Turkish\***

ev	<b>-ler</b>	<b>-i</b>
house	<b>-PL</b>	<b>-ACC</b>
'the houses (ACC)'		

**West Circassian**

wəne	<b>-xe</b>	<b>-m</b>
house	<b>-PL</b>	<b>-OBL</b>
'the houses (OBL)'		

**Latin\***

dom	<b>-os</b>
house	<b>-</b>
	<b>PL.ACC</b>
'houses (ACC)'	

## cumulative

**Russian**

dom	<b>-ov</b>
house	<b>-PL.GEN</b>
'houses (GEN)'	

ACC = accusative;  
GEN = genitive;  
OBL = oblique;  
PL = plural.

# Combining parameters: polysynthesis and exponence

## Inuktitut (Inuit–Yupik–Unangan)\*

**polysynthetic + fusional**

taku	-jagit
see	-1SG.S/2SG.O.IND
'I see you.'	

IND = indicative mood;  
O = object;  
PRES = present tense;  
S = subject;  
SG = singular.

## West Circassian (Northwest Caucasian)

**polysynthetic + agglutinating**

wə-	s-	e-	ʎeβ <sup>w</sup>
2SG.O	1SG.S-	PRES	see
-		-	
'I see you.'			

# Morphological typology: summary

Languages / constructions can be classified based on:

- position of affixes: **suffixing**  $\longleftrightarrow$  **prefixing**
- how much allomorphy there is: **flexive**  $\longleftrightarrow$  **nonflexive**
- whether morphemes tend to be free or bound:  
**isolating**  $\longleftrightarrow$  **concatenative**
- how many morphemes per word: **analytic**  $\longleftrightarrow$  **synthetic**
- where grammatical relations are expressed:  
**dependent-marking**  $\longleftrightarrow$  **head-marking (= polysynthetic)**
- how much information can be expounded in one morpheme:  
**agglutinating**  $\longleftrightarrow$  **fusional**